

FINAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The Bitterman Building

AND/OR COMMON

The New Bitterman Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

202-204 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Evansville

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

Eighth

STATE

Indiana

CODE

18

COUNTY

Vanderburgh

CODE

163

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Charles Duncan Rowe

STREET & NUMBER

202-204 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Evansville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Indiana 42208

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Vanderburgh County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

City-County Administration Building

CITY, TOWN

Evansville

STATE

Indiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

DATE

1978

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Indiana State Historic Preservation Office, Department of Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis

STATE
Indiana

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The New Bitterman building is located at 202-204 Main Street next to the Old Bitterman building; both structures are joined by a common party wall. (Photo 1) Although evidence indicates that a building has occupied this site since at least the 1850's, the present edifice was erected in approximately 1923 after a fire damaged several buildings in the downtown area.

Like the Old Bitterman structure, the newer three-storied Bitterman building has a rectangular plan. The main facade is three bays wide and is laid in smooth-dressed limestone; the remainder of the building is set in a common bond brick pattern. (Photo 2) The structure's design is derived from the utilitarian style of the Chicago commercial school of architecture. Although the building's exterior contains little embellishment, the first floor is trimmed with cast iron and marble paneling which extends around the base of the facade. The double glazed wood doors at the entrance to the building feature a single-light transom. Of special interest is the original curved glass entranceway surrounded on either side by large fixed sash display windows.

The Chicago-style lights on the upper two elevations are divided into three parts-- a large central light with narrow flanking lights and a transom bar, all with fixed sashes. The window-heads are flat with plain moulding on the sides, and the sills and window surrounds are made from smooth-faced cut stone, as is the parapet entablature capping the edifice.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1923

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Clifford Shopbell & Company

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The New Bitterman Building at 202-204 Main Street adjoins the older Bitterman Building. A photograph dating back to the 1880's shows that a more embellished structure occupied this site at that time; it was probably designed by local architect Frank J. Schlotter (1864-1943), who began his practice with the Reid Brothers firm in 1882. In approximately 1923, a fire heavily damaged the building, which was then extensively remodelled into a more functional and modern edifice. The design of the new structure is the work of Clifford Shopbell (1871-1939) and Company, one of Evansville's most prominent architectural firms.

In stark contrast to the more ornate features of the adjoining Old Bitterman Building, the New Bitterman Building is a locally rare example of the Chicago commercial school of architecture. Its utilitarian style is most evident in the plain but handsome three-part Chicago lights. Two bays in width, the windows feature a large central light with two narrower flanking lights, in addition to a transom bar. The parapet entablature is also unaffectedly simple and modern in design and continues to bear the inscribed name "Bitterman", which for nearly a century represented one of the city's most prominent retail jewelry businesses in downtown Evansville.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See continuation sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Evansville South, Ind.-Ky.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1: 24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 449680 4202510

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See continuation Sheet)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joan C. Marchand and Patricia K. Sides, Historic Preservation Specialists

ORGANIZATION

Department of Metropolitan Development

DATE

December 21, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Room 301 Old Courthouse Center, 4th & Vine Sts.

TELEPHONE

812-426-5487

CITY OR TOWN

Evansville

STATE

Indiana

47708

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Joseph P. Cloud

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 7-11-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

LOCAL HISTORIES AND ATLASES

Griffing's Atlas of Vanderburgh County, Indiana. Philadelphia: D. J. Lake & Co., 1880; reprint ed., Evansville: Unigraphic, Inc., and Friends of Willard Library, 1975.

PERIODICALS

Central Library Newspaper Clipping File

(Frank J. Schlotter obituary.) Courier, 15 May 1943.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Evansville Illustrated. 9 Parts. Chicago: H. R. Page & Co., 1889; reprint ed., Evansville: Unigraphic, Inc., and Friends of Willard Library, 1977.

PRIMARY SOURCE MATERIALS

City of Evansville Building Permits.

Evansville City Directories, 1858+.

Vanderburgh County Deed Indexes and Records.

Vanderburgh County Tax Assessment Books.

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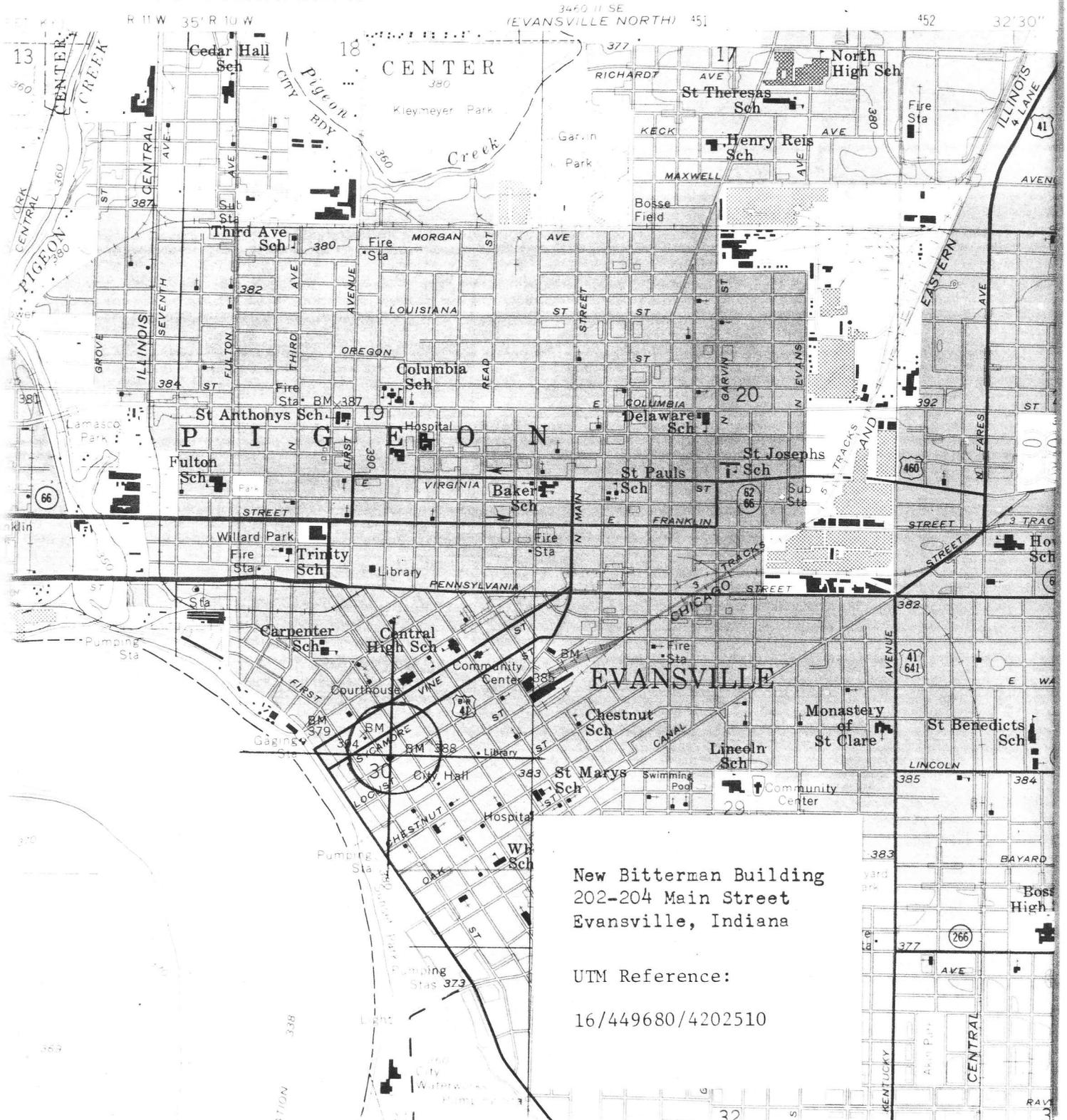
DATE ENTERED

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Part of lot number 109 in the Original Plan bounded as follows:
beginning at a point 18 feet and 9 inches from the corner of said
lot on Main and Second Streets running thence along Main Street towards
Third Street $37\frac{1}{2}$ feet thence at right angles to Main Street and parallel
to Second Street towards the alley in the rear of said lot 90 feet
thence on a line parallel with Main Street towards Second Street $37\frac{1}{2}$
feet and thence to the place of beginning.



New Bitterman Building
202-204 Main Street
Evansville, Indiana

UTM Reference:

16/449680/4202510